



**Contact: Michael Morache—President and CEO** 

Larry Betterley—Sr. Vice President & CFO Terri Reden—Communications Director

952.832.1000

## Newest PLATO Learning Product Helps Struggling Students Improve Basic Mathematics Skills

**MINNEAPOLIS –October 25, 2005** – PLATO Learning, Inc. (NASDAQ: TUTR), a leading provider of K–adult computer-based and e-learning solutions, announced the release of PLATO<sup>®</sup> Foundational Mathematics, a remedial mathematics curriculum for middle school, high school, and post-secondary learners.

"On the 2005 NAEP assessment, 69 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were below proficient and 31 percent were below basic level achievement in math," said Mike Morache, PLATO Learning President & CEO. "PLATO Foundational Mathematics provides an opportunity for students to recover basic mathematics skills and move forward to coursework at grade level. Our new courseware allows students to take control of their education using a self-paced instructional model that presents basic mathematical concepts to them in a manner appropriate to their age and ability so that they may successfully reach proficient levels and beyond."

PLATO Foundational Mathematics is designed to remediate secondary and post-secondary students in skills typically covered in kindergarten through sixth grade using contemporary instructional methodology that follows National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards. The content focuses on numbers and operations, including fractions and decimals, as well as some geometry and measurement.

Each of the 123 modules in PLATO Foundational Mathematics introduces mathematical concepts using real-world examples to establish contextual understanding and trigger prior knowledge. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are reinforced through "think-aloud" mentoring and scaffolded instruction. Key questions are designed to encourage learners to evaluate each step of a solution and analyze processes. Students are encouraged to independently investigate and experiment with mathematical concepts through a wide assortment of manipulatives and tools that can be accessed throughout the curriculum.

PLATO Foundational Mathematics joins an award-winning library of curricula geared towards helping secondary and post-secondary students recover credits, attain on-grade level skills, and transition from high school into post-secondary institutions. PLATO® Instructional Solutions for credit recovery, remediation, and developmental education include reading, writing, mathematics, and science curricula and provide students with a one-on-one, self-paced learning opportunity to keep them engaged and involved in their education.